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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 99,252-A)

PATENT

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JAN 29 2004
TC 1700

In re Application of:

Mertens et al.

Serial No.: 09/998,889

Filed: November 1, 2001

**For: Method and Apparatus for
Removing a Liquid from a
Surface**

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Saeed T. Chaudhry

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants respond to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003 as follows.

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